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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.21-10378-US01

Amendments To The Drawings:

Applicant has carefully reviewed the drawings, in particular Figures 3 and 5 and respectfully traverses the drawings objections. It is believed that the reference numerals in Figures 3 and 5 are perfectly legible. Therefore, it is not believed that new Figures 3 and 5 are required at this time.

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Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2005.

Drawing Objections

Applicant hereby traverses the drawings objections, as discussed above on page 7.

Claim Objections

Applicant traverses the claim 1 objection to "force carrier", as claim 14 makes it clear that a force carrier can be a bone plate, and therefore there is antecedent basis for force carrier in claim 1.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the objection of ¶5 of the office action. Also, the meaning of the claim language is clearly described in connection with Figure 3, which shows the axes diverging on the portion of the force carrier facing the bone.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 4 is a dependent claim (see ¶6), which is believed to be incorrect. Claim 4 is an independent claim.

§103 Rejections

Applicant has amended claim 1 to be dependent on independent claim 4. Claim 4 is not met by Huebner in view of Treace because neither reference discloses a force carrier provided with reinforcements, which have at the holes next to the fracture, a widening of the force carrier, and/or a reduction of the transverse extension of the hole, and/or an area where the material of the force carrier is of larger strength. So the subject matter of claim 4 is not met by Huebner combined with Treace. Therefore none of the dependent claims are met by the combination.

New claim 15 is fully supported by the specification as filed, and in particular by page 8, lines 29 – page 9 line 6. New claim 16 is supported by the specification generally and

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Figure 5, which clearly shows screws with different cross-sectional diameters. New claim 17 is fully supported by page 9, lines 7-13 and page 4 line 7-9 and page 7 lines 22-29 of the specification.

Claims 1-17 remain in the application, with claims 6-7 withdrawn from consideration, pending a decision to file a divisional. Claims 1-5 and 8-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance, as currently amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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